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SEN. BASHAM ANNOUNCES NEW INCENTIVES DESIGNED TO ENTICE EXPANSION OF THE FORD WAYNE FACILITY

Plan Could Retain 11,426 Jobs for Michigan

LANSING- State Senator Ray Basham (D-Taylor) announced today that the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) has approved an incentive package designed to help entice Ford Motor Company to consolidate all of its North American Focus production to the Ford Wayne Assembly facility. If adopted, the consolidation plan could mean the retention of over 11,000 jobs in Michigan by 2024.

“In the last three years, 3.3 million Americans have lost their jobs with over 2.5 million of those losses coming in the manufacturing sector,” Basham said. “In a global economy, job retention requires providing manufacturing companies the incentive to keep and expand manufacturing jobs here in Michigan.”

Ford Motor Company is considering consolidating all Ford Focus production- including production currently being done in Mexico and Europe- in the Ford Wayne Assembly facility located in the City of Wayne. Such a move would require an investment of up to \$583 million and would mean the retention of up to 2,662 employees. The retention of employees would begin in the last quarter of 2005, and increase as production ramps up.

As part of the agreement, the City of Wayne is expected to approve a \$48 million abatement of the company’s new real and personal property taxes for 12 years. For its part, the State of Michigan is offering a \$10 million abatement of the six-mill State Education Tax for a length of time to match the local property tax abatement.

“If ultimately successful, this type cooperative effort between state and local officials could become a model for job retention in Michigan,” Basham said. “It will take more innovative and collaborative projects like this in the future to prevent further job losses in the manufacturing sector.”

“The incentives approved today help level the playing field with foreign competitors and bring us a step closer to ensuring that Michigan wins this project,” added Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

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